

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12604 181525Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SAA-01 /077 W
-----030363 191118Z /13

R 181219Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3484
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12604

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: JANATA PARTY CRISIS: "OVERALL SETTLEMENT" COMES UNSTUCK

REF: NEW DELHI 12525

1. THE PROSPECTS FOR AN "OVERALL SETTLEMENT" BEING
REACHED TO RESOLVE THE JANATA PARTY IMBROGLIO DIMINISHED
LATE ON AUGUST 17 AFTER AN APPARENTLY INCONCLUSIVE
MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND EX-HOME
MINISTER CHARAN SINGH. PARTY PRESIDENT CHANDRA SHEKHAR'S
PEACE PLAN (REFTEL), UNDER WHICH HE WOULD BE REPLACED AS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12604 181525Z

JANATA CHIEF BY CHARAN SINGH, ENCOUNTERED ROUGH WEATHER
SOON AFTER ITS ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY AND IT IS EVIDENT
THAT OPPOSING FACTIONS IN THE PARTY ARE PLACING DIFFERING
INTERPRETATIONS ON ITS PROVISIONS. THE MAJOR STUMBLING
BLOCK APPARENTLY IS PM DESAI'S CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON
SOME FORM OF PUBLIC WITHDRAWAL BY CHARAN SINGH OF HIS EARLIER
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST KANTIBHAI DESAI. A SENIOR JANATA

SOURCE TELLS US THAT MORARJI REFUSES TO CONSIDER READMISSION OF CHARAN SINGH INTO THE CABINET OR EVEN HIS INSTALLATION AS JANATA PRESIDENT UNLESS THIS ESSENTIAL CONDITION IS MET. THE LACK OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORARJI AND CHARAN SINGH WAS EVIDENT FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING LAST EVENING WHEN THE TWO ELDER FIGURES EMERGED WITH GRIM FACES AND ONLY CRYPTIC COMMENTS FOR WAITING NEWSMEN.

2. THE REPORTED TERMS OF CHANDRA SHEKHAR'S PACKAGE DEAL AROUSED STRONG OPPOSITION AMONG CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE JANATA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CABINET WAS SHARPLY DIVIDED OVER THE PLAN AND, CONTRARY TO EARLY REPORTS, NEVER FORMALLY ENDORSED IT AT ITS MEETING EARLY ON AUGUST 17. AMONG THOSE OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT ARE NOT ONLY MORARJI'S OWN CONGRESS (O) BLOCK, JAGJIVAN RAM'S CFD, MANY SOCIALISTS AND SOME "REBEL" CONGRESSMEN (E.G., RAM DHAN AND KRISHNA KANT), BUT ALSO -- SIGNIFICANTLY -- THE JANA SANGH GROUP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SANGHIS ARE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN INSISTING THAT A NEW JANATA PRESIDENT SHOULD BE FREELY ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, RATHER THAN INSTALLED AS PART OF A PACKAGE PEACEPLAN. THIS SHIFT IN THE JANA SANGH POSITION IS INTERESTING GIVEN THEIR PREVIOUS UNEASE OVER THE MORARJI/CHARAN SINGH RIFT AND THEIR APPARENT ANXIETY TO FOSTER A RECONCILIATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12604 181525Z

3. THE NEXT MOVES ARE STILL UNCLEAR. THE PEACEMAKERS ARE DUE TO SEE THE PM ONCE AGAIN TODAY, BUT ABOUT ALL THAT ANY OF OUR PRESS AND MP SOURCES CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE SITUATION REMAINS "VERY FLUID" AND THAT "ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN." THE CONFUSION PREVAILING IN DELHI OVER THE BYZANTINE MACHINATIONS AND PETTY SQUABBLINGS OF THE JANATA RULERS IS EVIDENT FROM THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER HEADLINES, WHICH RANGE FROM "CHARAN SINGH TO BE JANATA PRESIDENT; CABINET ENDORSES FORMULA; PARTY WILL CLOSE RANKS" (HINDUSTAN TIMES") TO "JANATA PACKAGE DEALS RUNS INTO DIFFICULTY; DESAI AND CHARAN SINGH YET TO END DIFFERENCES " ("STATESMAN").

4. ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA, VICE PRESIDENT B.D. JATTI, ON AUGUST 17 ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN THE UPPER HOUSE'S AUGUST 10 RESOLUTION ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST KANTIBHAI DESAI AND THE FAMILY OF CHARAN SINGH (SEE NEW DELHI 12299). (THE RESOLUTION "CALLED UPON" THE GOVERNMENT EITHER TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF A 15- MEMBER COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OR ALTERNATIVELY TO APPOINT A JUDICIAL

INQUIRY COMMISSION.) JATTI RULED THAT HE COULD NOT
PROCEED ON THE RESOLUTION UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN-
DICATED TO HIM WHICH COURSE IT PREFERRED. K.K. ADVANI,
THE JANATA LEADER OF THE RAJYA SABHA, REPLIED THAT THE
GOI WOULD CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVES CAREFULLY, BUT GAVE
NO INDICATION WHEN A DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY SCHISMS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE12604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780340-0094
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780849/aaaabojo.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0862e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 12525
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1695247
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANATA PARTY CRISIS: "OVERALL SETTLEMENT" COMES UNSTUCK
TAGS: PINT, IN, JANATA PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0862e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014